

Claims

I claim:

- 5        1. A beverage comprising water, a water-soluble source of vitamin E, a flavoring agent and a sweetener, wherein the water-soluble source of vitamin E provides a tocopheryl content to the beverage of about 0.0005 IU/ml to about 10 IU/ml.
- 10      2. A beverage according to claim 1 wherein the beverage further comprises an anti-foaming agent and the water-soluble source of vitamin E is a polyethylene glycol ester of *d,l*- or *d*- $\alpha$ -tocopheryl succinate.
- 15      3. A beverage according to claim 2 wherein the water-soluble source of vitamin E provides a tocopheryl content to the beverage of about 0.002 IU/ml to about 2 IU/ml.
- 20      4. A beverage according to claim 3 wherein the water-soluble source of vitamin E provides a tocopheryl content to the beverage of about 0.02 IU/ml to about 1 IU/ml.
- 25      5. A beverage according to claim 3 wherein the sweetener is sucrose, glucose, fructose, sucralose, aspartame, acesulfame-K, alitame, saccharin, sorbitol, mannitol, lactitol, cyclamates or high fructose corn syrup and the anti-foaming agent is dimethylpolysiloxane, methylphenylpolysiloxane, oxystearin, polyethylene glycol dioleate, polyethylene/polypropylene glycol copolymers, Polysorbate 60, sodium monooleate or a mixture thereof.
- 30      6. A beverage according to claim 3 wherein the flavoring agent is chocolate, vanilla, cola, grape, pear, passion fruit, pineapple, banana or

banana puree, apricot, citrus, orange, lemon, grapefruit, apple, cranberry, tomato, mango, papaya, lime, tangerine, cherry, blueberry, strawberry, raspberry, coconut, carrot or mixtures thereof, and the anti-foaming agent is dimethylpolysiloxane, methylphenylpolysiloxane, oxystearin, polyethylene glycol dioleate, polyethylene/polypropylene glycol copolymers, Polysorbate 60, sodium monooleate or a mixture thereof.

7. A beverage according to claim 3 which further comprises about 1% to about 10% ethanol by weight of the beverage.

8. A beverage according to claim 7 which comprises about 3% to about 9% ethanol by weight of the beverage.

9. A beverage according to claim 3 which further comprises a preservative selected from a sorbate, a sorbate derivative, citric acid/sodium benzoate, or a mixture thereof and the anti-foaming agent is dimethylpolysiloxane, methylphenylpolysiloxane, oxystearin, polyethylene glycol dioleate, polyethylene/polypropylene glycol copolymers, Polysorbate 60, sodium monooleate or a mixture thereof.

10. A beverage according to claim 3 which further comprises ascorbic acid, vitamin B1, vitamin B2, vitamin B6, vitamin B12, vitamin B complexes, minerals, electrolytes or mixtures thereof.

11. A beverage according to claim 1 that is optically clear.

12. A fruit beverage comprising fruit juice or fruit flavoring, a water-soluble source of vitamin E and water, wherein the water-soluble source of vitamin E provides a tocopheryl content to the beverage of about 0.0005 IU/ml to about 10 IU/ml.

13. A fruit beverage according to claim 12 wherein the water-soluble source of vitamin E is a polyethylene glycol ester of *d,l*- or *d*- $\alpha$ -tocopheryl succinate.

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14. A beverage according to claim 13 wherein the water-soluble source of vitamin E provides a tocopheryl content to the beverage of about 0.002 IU/ml to about 2 IU/ml.

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15. A fruit beverage according to claim 13 wherein the fruit flavoring is a fruit juice or fruit flavor selected from grape, pear, passion fruit, pineapple, banana or banana puree, apricot, citrus, orange, lemon, grapefruit, apple, cranberry, tomato, mango, papaya, lime, tangerine, cherry, blueberry, strawberry, raspberry, coconut, carrot and mixtures thereof.

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16. A fruit beverage according to claim 15 having about 1% to about 99% fruit juice or fruit flavoring.

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17. A fruit beverage according to claim 16 having about 5% to about 15% fruit juice or fruit flavoring.

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18. A fruit beverage according to claim 15 which further comprises sucrose, glucose, fructose, sucralose, aspartame, acesulfame-K, alitame, saccharin, sorbitol, mannitol, lactitol, cyclamates, high fructose corn syrup or mixtures thereof.

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19. A fruit beverage according to claim 13 which further comprises a preservative selected from a sorbate, a sorbate derivative, citric acid/sodium benzoate, or a mixture thereof and, optionally, an anti-foaming agent.

20. A fruit beverage according to claim 13 which further comprises about 3% to about 9% ethanol by weight of the beverage.

5 21. A fruit beverage according to claim 13 which further comprises ascorbic acid, vitamin B1, vitamin B2, vitamin B6, vitamin B12, vitamin B complexes, minerals, electrolytes or mixtures thereof.

10 22. A fruit beverage according to claim 13 that is optically clear.

15 23. A carbonated beverage comprising carbonated water, a water-soluble source of vitamin E, an anti-foaming agent, and a flavoring agent, wherein the water-soluble source of vitamin E provides a tocopheryl content to the beverage of about 0.0005 IU/ml to about 10 IU/ml.

20 24. A carbonated beverage according to claim 23 wherein the water-soluble source of vitamin E is a polyethylene glycol ester of *d,l*- or *d*- $\alpha$ -tocopheryl succinate.

25 25. A carbonated beverage according to claim 24 wherein the water-soluble source of vitamin E provides a tocopheryl content to the beverage of about 0.02 IU/ml to about 1 IU/ml.

26. A carbonated beverage according to claim 24 which further comprises sucrose, glucose, fructose, sucralose, LL -aspartame, saccharin, sorbitol, mannitol, lactitol, high fructose corn syrup, acesulfame potassium, alitame, cyclamates or mixtures thereof.

30 27. A carbonated beverage according to claim 24 which further comprises about 1% to about 10% ethanol by weight of the beverage.

28. A carbonated beverage according to claim 27 which comprises about 3% to about 9% ethanol by weight of the beverage.

5 29. A carbonated beverage according to claim 24 which further comprises a preservative selected from a sorbate, a sorbate derivative, citric acid/sodium benzoate, or a mixture thereof.

10 30. A carbonated beverage according to claim 24 which further comprises ascorbic acid, vitamin B1, vitamin B2, vitamin B6, vitamin B12, vitamin B complexes, minerals, electrolytes or mixtures thereof.

15 31. A carbonated beverage according to claim 24 wherein the flavoring agent is chocolate, vanilla, cola or a fruit juice or fruit flavor selected from grape, pear, passion fruit, pineapple, banana or banana puree, apricot, citrus, orange, lemon, grapefruit, apple, cranberry, tomato, mango, papaya, lime, tangerine, cherry, blueberry, strawberry, raspberry, coconut, carrot and mixtures thereof.

20 32. A carbonated beverage according to claim 24 that is optically clear.

33. A beverage concentrate comprising a flavoring agent, a sweetener, a preservative, an anti-foaming agent, a water-soluble source of vitamin E, and water.

25 34. A beverage concentrate according to claim 33 wherein the water-soluble source of vitamin E is a polyethylene glycol ester of *d,l*- or *d*- $\alpha$ -tocopheryl succinate.

35. A beverage concentrate according to claim 34 wherein the water-soluble source of vitamin E provides a tocopheryl content to the beverage of about 0.02 IU/ml to about 1 IU/ml; the sweetener is present at a level of about 40% to about 60% based on the weight of the concentrate; the  
5 preservative is a sorbate, a sorbate derivative, citric acid/sodium benzoate, or a mixture thereof; and the anti-foaming agent is dimethylpolysiloxane, methylphenylpolysiloxane, oxystearin, polyethylene glycol dioleate, polyethylene/polypropylene glycol copolymers, Polysorbate 60, sodium monooleate or a mixture thereof.

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36. A beverage concentrate according to claim 34 wherein the flavoring agent is chocolate, vanilla, cola, grape, pear, passion fruit, pineapple, banana or banana puree, apricot, citrus, orange, lemon, grapefruit, apple, cranberry, tomato, mango, papaya, lime, tangerine, cherry, blueberry, 15 strawberry, raspberry, coconut, carrot and mixtures thereof.

37. A beverage concentrate according to claim 36 wherein the sweetener is sucrose, glucose, fructose, sucralose, aspartame, saccharin, sorbitol, mannitol, lactitol, high fructose corn syrup, acesulfame, alitame, 20 cyclamates or mixtures thereof.

38. A dairy product containing a water-soluble source of vitamin E comprising milk and a polyethylene glycol ester of *d,l*- or *d*- $\alpha$ -tocopheryl succinate in an amount of about 1 to about 2500 ppm.

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39. A dairy product according to claim 38 which further comprises a sweetener selected from sucrose, glucose, fructose, sucralose, aspartame, saccharin, sorbitol, mannitol, lactitol, high fructose corn syrup, acesulfame, alitame and cyclamates and a flavoring agent selected from chocolate, 30 vanilla, cola, grape, pear, passion fruit, pineapple, banana or banana puree,

apricot, citrus, orange, lemon, grapefruit, apple, cranberry, tomato, mango, papaya, lime, tangerine, cherry, blueberry, strawberry, raspberry, coconut, carrot and mixtures thereof.

5       40. A dairy product according to claim 38 which further comprises an anti-foaming agent and a preservative selected from a sorbate, a sorbate derivative, citric acid/sodium benzoate, or a mixture thereof.

10      41. A dairy product according to claim 38 which further comprises ascorbic acid, vitamin D, vitamin B1, vitamin B2, vitamin B6, vitamin B12, vitamin B complexes, minerals, electrolytes or mixtures thereof.